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Accomplished drifty, dreamy debut from former Dublin architect.

After just one internet-only EP, Warmed Up, Jim "Saso" Lawler has juked his day job and jumped into the sublime, Radox-infused waters of Big Group Hug. Maybe it's not such a leap from designing buildings to the careful constructs of this album, where Lawler (playing most instruments and adding samples himself) stitches together 10 tracks with one overriding mood.

The aching drift of Talk Talk's last incarnation is an admitted influence, though Saso is less esoteric and jazz-driven - more a blissed out take on Krautrock. Importantly though, the music is as beautiful, while sudden interruptions (see the chilling vocal sample breaking up Bloodbath's glissando pulse) stop it falling the wrong side of soporific.

Martin Aston, December 01

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